

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 8 and 9 are now pending in the application and are both independent. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

As requested by the Examiner a new title and Abstract have been provided. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objections to the Abstract and title are requested.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 6,400,401 (Morino, et al.). Since these claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the Section 102 rejection is deemed moot. Nevertheless, newly presented claims 8 and 9 are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent claim 8, the present invention relates to an image communication system for transmitting and receiving an image via a communication line. The system includes supply means, display means, discriminating means and calculating means. The supply means supplies a self-portrait image from a self-portrait photographing unit and a partner image from a partner photographing unit, while the display means displays a self-portrait window to display the self-portrait image and a partner display window to display the partner image on the same screen. The discriminating means discriminates whether a designated point designated by designating means exist in a self-portrait display window or in a partner display window. The calculating means calculates self-portrait photographing unit control information by a self-portrait calculating method in a case that the designated point exists in the self-portrait display window, or calculates partner photographing unit control information by a partner calculating method in a case that the designated point exists in the partner display window. The control

means controls the self-portrait photographing unit so as to move a part of an image at the designated point to a center of a self-portrait display window in the case that the designated point exists in the self-portrait display window, or controls the partner photographing unit so as to move a part of the an image at the designated point to a center of a partner display window in the case that the designated point exists in the partner display window.

As recited in independent claim 9, the present invention relates to a control method for an image communication system for transmitting and receiving an image via a communication line. The method includes a supply step of supplying a self-portrait image from a self-portrait photographing unit and a partner image from a partner photographing unit, a display step of displaying a self-portrait display window to display the self-portrait image and a partner display window to display the partner image on the same screen, and a discriminating step of discriminating whether a designated point designated by a designating unit exists in the self-portrait display window or the partner display window. The method further includes a calculating step of calculating self-portrait photographing unit control information by a self-portrait calculating method in a case that the designated point exists in the self-portrait display window, or calculating partner photographing unit control information by a partner calculating method in a case that the designated point exists in the partner display window, and a controlling step of controlling the self-portrait photographing unit so to move a part of an image at the designated point to a center of the self-portrait display window in the case that the designated point exists in the self-portrait display window, or controlling the partner photographing unit so as to move a part of an image at the designated point to a center of the partner display window in the case that the designated point exists in the partner display window.

Morino, et al., relates to a camera control method and apparatus. An image that has been captured by the camera is displayed on a display device having a display screen area divided into plural zones. A direction of movement of the camera is assigned to each of the zones. A prescribed position in the display screen area can be designated and the camera can be moved in the direction of movement that has been assigned to the zone corresponding to the designated position.

However, Morino, et al. does not disclose or suggest displaying a self-portrait display window and a partner display window on a same screen as recited in independent claims 8 and 9. Since Morino, et al. does not disclose the two display windows, that patent further fails to disclose or suggest discriminating whether a designated point exists in the self-portrait or the partner display window, or calculating self-portrait or partner photographing unit control information by self-portrait or partner calculating methods depending on whether the designated point exists in the self-portrait or partner display window, as also recited in independent claims 8 and 9. Further, Morino, et al. does not disclose or suggest controlling the self-portrait or partner photographing unit so as to move a part of an image at the designated point to a center of the display window depending on whether the designated point exists in the self-portrait or partner display window.

Thus, Morino, et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent claims 8 and 9.

Accordingly, the present invention as recited in new Claims 8 and 9 is not anticipated by Morino, et al.. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection are requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamsom", written over a horizontal line.

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